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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Shakopee man indicted for possessing a firearm

A 24-year-old Shakopee man was indicted today in federal court on charges of firearm possession.

Christopher Loren Zink was charged Aug. 5 in Minneapolis with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm and one count of possession of an unregistered firearm. Zink's indictment alleges that from April 8 through May 6 he knowingly possessed a short-barreled Winchester 12-gauge shotgun.

Zink had been previously convicted of felony crimes in three Minnesota counties between 2002 and 2007, including assault in Dakota County (2002), theft of a motor vehicle in Hennepin County (2003) and burglary in Scott County (2007).

The indictment also alleges that the shotgun was not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

According to a United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) affidavit, the Shakopee Police Department was notified on April 15 that Zink attempted to pawn the shotgun at a pawn shop. The shop refused to accept the weapon because the barrel was shorter than the legal requirement.

During an executed search warrant at Zink's residence on May 6, police located a short-barreled shotgun and approximately 20 12-gauge shotgun shells. Authorities determined that the weapon was not manufactured in Minnesota.

If convicted, Zink faces a potential maximum penalty of life in prison on the felon in possession count and 10 years on the unregistered possession count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Shakopee Police Department and the ATF, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a comprehensive, strategic approach

to reducing gun crime in America that was launched in 2001. It networks existing local programs that target gun crime and provides them with additional tools in the effort to make our streets and communities a much more safe place.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.